

WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Annual Report 2005



About WSSD Partnerships for Sustainable Development



Partnerships for sustainable development aimed at implementing Agenda 21 are an important outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. At the Summit, governments agreed on a series of commitments in five priority areas backed up by specific government announcements on programmes, and by Partnership initiatives. It is important to continue to build on the momentum created by the WSSD, since Partnership initiatives can contribute significantly to the implementation of sustainable development at all levels.

Additional information about Partnerships can be found at:
<www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>.

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A Message from the Founding Partners

The globally agreed GHS implementation target date of 2008 is approaching and the importance of GHS capacity building is becoming increasingly evident. The recently concluded International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) held in Dubai, 4-6 February 2006, for example, stressed the importance of training and capacity building for implementing the GHS as part of the Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management (SAICM). This is recognised in the Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) of SAICM, and in the Global Plan of Action. A key message is that it is more important than ever for countries and regions to move forward to include GHS capacity building and implementation into their overall strategies for sound chemicals management.

Overall, 2005 marked an exciting year for the Partnership. Pilot projects in Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand, the Gambia and the Philippines were initiated, and important supporting activities to facilitate GHS implementation at the regional level continued, including a sub-regional workshop for countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and a consultation for countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In support of GHS capacity building efforts, a *Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS* was held in South Africa. The workshop took stock of current activities, needs and progress to date, exchanged country and regional experiences with GHS capacity building and implementation, and contributed to a review of guidance materials and methodology. Additionally, many other countries are continuing their activities to assess and modify – or develop new – legislation in order to implement the GHS. Details about these and other exciting developments are included in this 2005 Annual Report, the fourth published since the initiation of the Partnership in 2002.

UNITAR, ILO and OECD appreciate and would like to acknowledge the core contributions of the Government of Switzerland and the European Union in 2005, as well as contributions from Foreign Affairs Canada and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for supporting activities. Equally important, we would like to thank the members of the Programme Advisory Group of the UNITAR/ILO *Global GHS Capacity Building Programme* who have provided continued technical and advisory support. Other governments and major groups are invited to join the Partnership and support core activities in 2006-2007 in order to meet the continued growing interest and commitment for GHS capacity building in developing and transition countries.

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Selected Partnership Highlights 2005

- *Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of ASEAN* held 17-20 October 2005, in Manila, Philippines.
- The Ministry of Environment of Japan and UNITAR complete the survey of Asia-Pacific countries on GHS implementation.
- Pilot projects initiated in the Gambia, Indonesia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia and Thailand.
- Comprehensibility training and testing conducted in the Gambia, Indonesia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, and Thailand.
- *Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS* held 15-18 November 2005, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

1. The WSSD Global GHS Partnership

The GHS

Communicating hazards of dangerous chemicals to workers and the public is a key foundation for protecting human health and the environment.

Communicating the hazards of dangerous chemicals to workers and the public is a key foundation for protecting human health and the environment. As a major break-through in this area, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) was adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS) in December 2002 and endorsed by ECOSOC in July 2003. The GHS has the ultimate goal of ensuring that information on chemical hazards (such as on labels and safety data sheets) is made available to workers and consumers in a harmonized and comprehensible format in countries around the world.¹

Internationally, chemical safety, including hazard communication and GHS implementation, is one of the issues that received specific attention at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It was agreed to “encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008”. This target had also been adopted by the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in 2000. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), adopted in 2006, also includes significant activities related to the GHS (see text box on page 5). The GHS is the major international tool for effective chemical classification and hazard communication.

UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme

The UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme supports national and regional GHS capacity building activities, and develops and pilots training materials.

Early feedback from developing countries documented that widespread adoption of the GHS and effective chemical hazard communication requires that adequate support, training and technical assistance be made available to committed countries in need of building appropriate GHS-relevant legal and technical infrastructures.

In response to growing requests from countries for GHS capacity building, UNITAR and ILO initiated in 2001 the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Training and Capacity Building Programme*. The Programme aims at assisting countries and regions to build capacities for the implementation of the GHS by forming pilot project partnerships, and providing guidance documents, training materials, expert training and educational, awareness-raising and

¹ Further information about the GHS can be found in Annex 1.

resource materials regarding the new system. Details regarding 2005 progress are found throughout this Annual Report and can also be found at the UNITAR/ILO Programme website at: <www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/index.html>.

Initiation of the WSSD GHS Partnership by UNITAR, ILO and OECD

Over 25 governments, international organizations and NGOs responded with strong interest to participate in the Partnership.

In April 2002, UNITAR and ILO, in collaboration with OECD, initiated the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS* as a way to mobilize resources and implement a number of specific support activities to strengthen capacities at all levels and sectors – in particular in developing and transition countries – towards implementing the GHS in sectors such as industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products. Today, the Partnership is comprised of over 25 governments, international organizations, business and industry groups, and public interest and labour organizations, and continues to grow. Any parties interested in joining the Partnership are welcome to contact UNITAR.² The Partnership website is: <www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/index.htm>.

² Further information on the history of the GHS Partnership can be found in Annex 2. Information on other international bodies and initiatives relevant to the GHS can be found in Annex 3.

SAICM and the GHS

A new policy framework for international action on chemicals management, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), was developed by a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral Preparatory Committee and adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) on 6 February 2006 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

SAICM is a voluntary agreement and an important concrete outcome of the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), representing an important step towards achieving the goal that by the year 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

SAICM comprises three core texts:

- The Dubai Declaration, which expresses the commitment to SAICM by Ministers, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector.
- The Overarching Policy Strategy, which sets out the scope of SAICM, the needs it addresses and objectives for risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation and illegal international traffic, as well as underlying principles and financial and institutional arrangements.
- The Global Plan of Action, which sets out proposed “work areas and activities” for implementation of the Strategic Approach.

The GHS has the potential to serve as the foundation for national chemicals management schemes and is a key component of SAICM implementation. The benefits of implementing the GHS range from protecting workers and the public, to facilitating trade in chemicals. Participants of the ICCM stressed the importance of training and capacity building for implementing the GHS as part of SAICM. In particular, the GHS is recognised in the Dubai Declaration and the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) of SAICM, where implementation of the GHS is identified as an objective under the area of “knowledge and information”. Further, the GHS is also included as a distinct SAICM work area in the Global Plan of Action. This provides international recognition of the importance of countries and regions moving forward to include the GHS capacity building and implementation into overall chemicals management strategies and national SAICM implementation programmes.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Second Meeting of the WSSD GHS Partners

is tentatively planned for *11 December 2006* in Geneva, Switzerland.

With the global GHS implementation date rapidly approaching, it is a key time to strategically review progress made to date and consider the actions and resources needed to further develop and strengthen the Partnership and realize its objectives towards 2008.

The 2nd Partners Meeting is expected to:

- take stock of progress achieved since the first meeting;
- review Partnership indicators;
- assess challenges and opportunities encountered to date;
- review relevant SAICM provisions;
- consider mobilisation of new and additional resources; and
- propose next steps for GHS capacity building and implementation.

Countries, bilateral and multilateral donors, business and industry groups, public interest and labour organisations, and international organizations interested in joining the Partnership and participating at the second meeting of the Partners, should contact UNITAR.

The documents and report of the first Partners meeting can be reviewed at:

<www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/cbl/ghs/meetings/meeting_1.htm>

2. Partnership Objectives and Framework Workplan

Goal and Objectives

The WSSD GHS Partnership strives to mobilize support and catalyze partnerships for capacity building activities at the global, regional and national levels.

The goal of the WSSD GHS Partnership is to mobilize support and catalyze partnerships for coordinated activities at the global, regional and national levels to strengthen capacities in developing countries and countries in transition towards effective implementation of the GHS. In the medium and long-term, the Partnership is expected to lead to a decrease in environmental and human health related effects attributable to the use of hazardous chemicals. It thus makes a direct contribution to important objectives of sustainable development including protection of marginalized groups, protection of water supplies and drinking water, poverty eradication and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Specific objectives of the Partnership include mobilization of resources for:

- awareness raising and capacity development for GHS implementation at the regional level;
- awareness raising and capacity development for GHS implementation at the national level; and
- development of GHS guidance, training and resource material.

Partnership Programme Areas and Activities

To be recognized as a contribution to the Partnership, an activity should fall within any of the following four Programme Areas and make a significant contribution towards achieving Partnership indicators. The Partnership's programme areas are:

- (1) GHS Capacity Development at the Regional Level
- (2) GHS Capacity Development at the National Level
- (3) Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Capacity Building Guidance and Training Materials
- (4) Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development

Projects and activities executed through the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme are directly linked to the above Programme Areas and constitute a core contribution to the Partnership. Other Partnership activities can be implemented directly by Partners, working in close collaboration with the UNITAR/ILO Programme and its Programme Advisory Group. See text box below.

What Constitutes a Core GHS Partnership Activity?

The GHS Partnership attempts to mobilize support for a number of agreed activities. Activities constitute a contribution to the GHS Partnership if they fall within the programme areas, as agreed at the first Meeting of the Partners. Activities are either implemented through the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme or directly by Partners. In all cases, activities are co-ordinated through, and technically reviewed by, the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Programme. Not all core Partnership activities are therefore executed by UNITAR/ILO. Countries and organizations may also execute Partnership activities independently, if the activity contributes to one of the Partnership indicators and is coordinated through the PAG. It is also recognized that many other valuable GHS capacity development activities are organized independently of the WSSD GHS Partnership. Those activities do not belong to the core program of the Partnership, but are presented in a special section of the annual reports for the Partnership.

Partnership Indicators

At the first Meeting of the Partners in July 2003, Partners discussed proposed time-bound targets for the Partnership. However, in light of the uncertainty for funding beyond 2003, it was agreed that targets should be replaced by more general indicators against which progress could be evaluated.

The recommended indicators are the following:

- Number of Regional GHS Awareness Raising Workshops organized in major regions.
- Number of Regional GHS capacity assessments and implementation strategies prepared.
- Number of Regional partner organizations identified.
- Number of Country-based pilot projects on GHS Action Plan Development completed in each UN region, including: awareness raising workshop, situation analysis, action plan development and implementing legislation.
- National GHS Action Plan projects initiated in the greatest possible number of countries.
- GHS and hazard communication awareness raising materials prepared, peer-reviewed and widely disseminated.
- GHS capacity building guidance and training materials prepared, peer-reviewed and pilot tested.

2005 Financial and In-kind Contributions to the WSSD GHS Partnership

UNITAR/ILO/OECD would like to thank the following countries and organizations for their contributions to the Partnership in 2005:

A. Support of Partnership Coordination and Secretariat

<u>Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (BUWAL)</u>	USD 88,000.00
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B. 2005 Financial Support to Core Partnership Activities Implemented through the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme

Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (BUWAL)

GHS Implementation in South Africa and SADC, and TWS-9, 2005–2006	USD 122,000.00
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National GHS capacity building projects in Laos and Cambodia, 2006–2008	USD 472,000.00
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Regional GHS Awareness Raising and Training Workshop for Arabic Speaking Countries in Egypt, 2006–2007	USD 111,000.00
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<u>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)</u>	USD 38,000
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National GHS capacity building project in Senegal, 2005-2006 (continued)	
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Foreign Affairs Canada

GHS guidance material development, 2005	USD 20,000.00
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Regional GHS Workshop in ASEAN, Oct 2005	USD 19,000.00
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<u>European Commission (EC)</u>	USD 617,000.00
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Development of Regional GHS Implementation Strategy in ASEAN, 2005-2007	
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National GHS capacity building projects in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, 2005-2007	
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Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Support for Global Thematic GHS Workshop (TWS-9), Nov 2005	USD 20,000.00
	(This figure excludes the costs borne by OPCW of the international travel of a number of participants)

C. In-kind Financial Contributions in 2005 to Core Partnership Activities

UNITAR would like to recognise in-kind contributions from partners which generally included provision of expertise for workshops and trainings, and support and facilitation of meetings and events: the Governments of Australia, Canada, and the Philippines, and the International Council of Chemical Associations.

*Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

3. GHS Capacity Development at the Regional Level – Programme Area 1

Regional free trade initiatives increasingly deal with environmental, labour and health issues.

Countries within regions often share similar needs and approaches towards chemical hazard communication. Also, regional economic cooperation or free trade initiatives increasingly include environmental, labour and health related issues. This programme area includes activities such as regional GHS awareness raising workshops, regional capacity assessments and the facilitation of regional GHS implementation strategies.

Initial indicators for this Programme Area include the following:

- Number of Regional GHS Awareness Raising Workshops organized in major regions.
- Number of Regional GHS capacity assessments and implementation strategies prepared.
- Number of Regional partner organizations identified.

2005 Activities and Progress Made

Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of ASEAN

A Regional GHS workshop was held in October 2005 for the 10 countries of ASEAN.

The Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) took place in Manila, Philippines, from 17-20 October 2005. The workshop brought together 76 representatives from the ten countries of ASEAN, as well as representatives of international organizations, business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations.³ The event represents the third in a series of regional and sub-regional GHS workshops that are coordinated and supported through the UNITAR/ILO *Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*.⁴ The workshop was organized through the collaboration of the Government of the Philippines, UNITAR and ILO, with in-kind contributions from the Government of Australia and with financial support from the European Union, the Government of Switzerland and Foreign Affairs Canada.

Through a series of working groups and plenary sessions, the workshop developed recommendations for action towards GHS

³ ASEAN member countries are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

⁴ The first UNITAR/ILO Subregional GHS workshop was held for countries of SADC (Southern African Development Community) in September 2003 and the second was held for countries of Mercosur and the Andean Community in November-December 2004.

implementation at the national and regional levels in ASEAN. Workshop documentation and the final report may be found here: <www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs4.html>.

This workshop is part of a two-year project (2005-2007) to strengthen capacities in ASEAN countries for implementing the GHS, executed by UNITAR in the context of the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme* with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Switzerland. As a result of the workshop, UNITAR will work with partners in the region to initiate regional capacity building activities for all ten ASEAN member countries; country-based pilot projects in at least three countries (who will share their experience towards GHS implementation with other countries); support activities for public interest and labour organisations; and securing active engagement of the chemical industry in GHS implementation at the national and regional levels.

Further Development of a SADC Regional GHS Implementation Strategy

SADC continued its GHS-related activities with a consultation to consider a regional implementation strategy.

SADC member countries and members of the SADC secretariat, with support of UNITAR and the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa, held an “Informal Consultation with Participants from SADC Countries for Further Development of a Regional Approach to GHS Implementation” to discuss the development of a SADC regional implementation strategy. Resulting from the workshop, held on 18 November 2005 in Johannesburg, is a report of the meeting and workplan for activities to develop the strategy. These activities will be implemented over the course of 2006. For further information, see the section on plans for 2006-2007.

ASEAN Secretariat Engagement in GHS Implementation

Members of the ASEAN Secretariat met with UNITAR in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 April 2005, including representatives of the Bureau for Resources Development (Environment), Agriculture, and External Relations to discuss the GHS project in ASEAN and the potential for cooperation between UNITAR and the ASEAN Secretariat. The Secretariat indicated interest to participate in the first regional workshop and perhaps undertake a more active role for the second regional workshop (e.g. which they could consider co-sponsoring or co-hosting). As a result of this meeting, an ASEAN Secretariat representative participated in the “Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of ASEAN” (see above) and it is expected that they will play a more active role in the second ASEAN workshop, planned for 2007.

ASEAN OSHNET/UNITAR Joint Collaboration

The ASEAN OSHNET Secretariat met with UNITAR in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7 April 2005 to discuss possible areas of cooperation, including support of their planned ASEAN workshop for the workplace sector and a multi-sectoral national GHS workshop in Malaysia. As a result of these meetings, UNITAR will support and participate in both events planned for March 2006.

Plans for 2006-2007

With support from the Government of Switzerland, one regional workshop for Central and Eastern European countries and one for Arabic speaking countries are planned for 2006-2007. Subject to the provision of additional resources, a proposal to host a regional workshop in ECOWAS (West Africa) has also been received and is under consideration. Further, as part of the ASEAN regional strategy for GHS implementation, UNITAR will support an ASEAN Regional GHS Workshop specifically for representatives from the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN OSHNET), due to take place in March 2006. Finally, with the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa, UNITAR will facilitate follow-up activities for developing a regional GHS implementation strategy in SADC.

Other activities in 2006 at the regional level include: projects to strengthen the capacity of public interest and labour organizations, and business and industry to participate in GHS-related activities in SADC and in ASEAN, and planning for regional workshops and implementation strategies in other regions (e.g. Central America and South Asia). Countries and organizations that are interested in sponsoring such activities, or that may be in a position to support the organization of additional regional workshops through the UNITAR/ILO programme, are encouraged to contact UNITAR.

4. GHS Capacity Development at the Country Level – Programme Area 2

GHS pilot projects provide important feedback to the international community regarding opportunities and challenges to implement the GHS in developing and transition countries

Country-based GHS capacity building projects serve to catalyse national GHS implementation through multi-stakeholder and multi-sector collaboration. They also provide a testing ground to review drafts of GHS-related guidance and training materials. The results of national GHS activities provide important feedback to the international community regarding opportunities and challenges associated with GHS implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Activities in this programme area include support of national GHS awareness raising workshops, GHS situation and gap analysis and national GHS implementation strategy development involving government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations.

Initial indicators for this Programme Area include the following:

- Number of Country-based pilot projects on GHS Action Plan Development completed in each UN region, including: awareness raising workshop, situation analysis, action plan development and implementing legislation.
- National GHS Action Plan projects initiated in the greatest possible number of countries.

2005 Activities and Progress Made

Initiation of New Country Pilot Projects and Progress in Developing National GHS Implementation Strategies

Through contributions to the global UNITAR/ILO trust fund for GHS capacity building, Nigeria, Senegal, and The Gambia initiated country-based pilot projects in early 2005, with resources provided by the Government of Switzerland. With the co-funding of the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand also initiated country-based pilot projects in mid-2005.

The Gambia

A National GHS Planning Meeting was held on 11 March 2005 in the Gambia to discuss infrastructure and development of the GHS project. The National Environment Agency serves as the coordinating organization, with committee membership including key governmental departments and representatives of business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations. UNITAR representatives provided an overview of the project, the proposed methodology to develop a national GHS

implementation strategy, and discussed and clarified questions related to the project. As an output from the meeting, the Gambia developed an inception report which also served as the workplan and budget for initial activities.

As part of initial activities in 2005, the Gambia has been developing a national GHS situation and gap analysis. During 15-16 August 2005 the Gambia undertook comprehensibility testing (CT) training with a UNITAR consultant from the University of Cape Town. Subsequently, testing was conducted and the results were used to understand the level of GHS awareness among the public. Comprehensibility testing also served as an opportunity for awareness-raising in itself. This activity, and the situation and gap analysis also conducted by the Gambia, will be used to inform the development of targeted activities for implementing the GHS during 2006.

Indonesia

In 2005 the National Agency for Drug and Food Control (NADFC) of the Republic of Indonesia, which serves as the national co-coordinating agency for the project, established the National GHS Implementation Committee involving government agencies for the four sectors and from stakeholder groups in business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations.

A National GHS Planning Meeting took place on 21 June 2005 involving some 28 participants, including representatives from key stakeholders, and was followed by a number of internal planning meeting for each of the subcommittees and regular GHS meetings.

As part of initial activities, NADFC developed the national GHS situation and gap analysis. From 26-27 October 2005, Indonesia held their comprehensibility testing training for 49 participants. The testing was conducted during November-December 2005 and Indonesia has completed the CT report and the situation and gap analysis. Figure 1 demonstrates a GHS symbols card used for comprehensibility testing in Indonesia. The results of the situation and gap analysis, and comprehensibility testing will be used to inform the development of targeted activities for implementing the GHS.








During 2005, NADFC also conducted “GHS at a glance” trainings for five provinces for 25 people per training. They are also in the process of developing a short guidance on the GHS, as well as a draft booklet on the GHS in Bahasa Indonesia which will result in greater outreach to the general public.

Figure 1: GHS Information Card Translated into Bahasa Indonesia

PIKTOGRAM GHS

Sistem Harmonisasi Global tentang Klasifikasi dan Penandaan Bahan Kimia (The Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals) atau disingkat dengan GHS adalah suatu sistem baru yang dimaksudkan untuk menyamakan seluruh label/penandaan dan Lembar Data Keamanan Bahan (LDKB) / Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Tujuan GHS : untuk melindungi kesehatan manusia dan lingkungan

	TENGKORAK DAN TULANG BERSILANG : Bahan kimia ini berbahaya SKULL AND CROSS BONES : <i>This chemical is dangerous</i>
	OKSIDATOR : Bahan kimia ini dapat bereaksi dengan bahan kimia lain meskipun dalam keadaan hampa udara dan menimbulkan api OXIDIZING : <i>This chemical can react, even in the absence of air, with other chemicals and cause fire</i>
	BAHAYA TERHADAP LINGKUNGAN : Bahan kimia ini dapat merusak atau mematikan ikan atau organisme akuatik lainnya ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD : <i>This is a chemical that can damage or kill fish or other aquatic organisms</i>
	MUDAH MELEDAK : Bahan kimia ini dapat menimbulkan ledakan EXPLOSIVE : <i>This chemical is one that can blow up and cause an explosion</i>
	MUDAH MENYALA : Bahan kimia ini mudah menyala dan dapat menyebabkan kebakaran FLAMMABLE: <i>A flammable chemical is one that can easily catch fire and burn</i>
	KOROSIF : Bahan kimia ini dapat menyebabkan kerusakan yang parah pada mata, kulit, logam dan bahan lain CORROSIVE: <i>This chemical can cause severe damage to eyes, skin, metal and other materials</i>
	BAHAYA AKUT : Bahan kimia ini dapat menimbulkan reaksi kesehatan seketika bila terpapar ACUTE HAZARD: <i>This chemical may cause you to have immediate health reaction when exposed</i>

Nigeria

A National GHS Planning Meeting was held on 22 March 2005 in Nigeria, to discuss infrastructure and development of the GHS project. The National GHS Coordinating Agency is the Federal Ministry of Environment and members of the GHS Implementation Committee include key governmental departments and representatives of business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations. As an output from the meeting, Nigeria developed an inception report which also served as the workplan and budget for initial activities. Subsequently, Nigeria convened a number of stakeholder subcommittee meetings for the private sector and for regulators, as well as regular committee meetings.

As part of initial activities, Nigeria has been developing the national GHS situation and gap analysis. During 2005 Nigeria undertook comprehensibility testing training. Subsequently, testing was conducted and the results were used to understand the level of GHS awareness among the public. This activity, and the situation and gap analysis, will be used to inform the development of targeted activities for implementing the GHS during 2006.

The Philippines

In 2005 the Philippines formed a multisectoral National GHS Implementation Committee with representatives from government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations, along with subcommittees on comprehensibility testing, legislation, technical training, awareness raising and international relations. The Department of Trade and Industry, Board of Investments (BOI), of the Philippines serves as the national co-coordinating agency for the project. A National GHS Planning Meeting took place on 24 June 2005 involving some 44 participants, including key governmental departments and representatives of business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations. A number of additional meetings were held for further planning and orientation on the GHS project.

From 24-25 October 2005, the Philippines held their comprehensibility testing training for 20 participants. The testing was conducted during November-December 2005 and the Philippines is currently in the process of analyzing and writing the CT report and finalizing the situation and gap analysis. The results of the situation and gap analysis, and comprehensibility testing will be used to inform the development of targeted activities for implementing the GHS. Figure 2 shows a label created by a company in the Philippines, based on the GHS.

Figure 2: Sample GHS-based Label created by Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation of the Philippines



Senegal

In 2005, Senegal, with coordination by the Ministry of Environment, initiated its GHS Capacity Building Project, including committee membership from key governmental departments and representatives of business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations. A National GHS Planning Meeting was held on 14 March 2005 in Senegal, to discuss infrastructure and development of the GHS project.

As part of initial activities, Senegal has been developing the national GHS situation and gap analysis. On 17-19 August, Senegal undertook comprehensibility testing training with a UNITAR consultant from the University of Cape Town. This activity, and the situation and gap analysis, will be used to inform the development of targeted activities for implementing the GHS during 2006.

Thailand

The Ministry of Public Health, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of Thailand, serves as the national co-coordinating agency for the National GHS Capacity Building project. An important result during 2005 was the formation of the National GHS Implementation Committee involving government agencies for the four sectors and from stakeholder groups in business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations.

A National GHS Planning Meeting took place on 8 April 2005 involving some 15 participants, including key governmental departments and representatives of industry and public interest and labour organizations. Further, as part of its initial activities, Thailand held a number of planning meetings for the situation and gap analysis and comprehensibility testing. From 26-27 October 2005, Thailand held their comprehensibility testing training for 35 participants, conducted by a UNITAR consultant from University of Cape Town. The testing was conducted during November-December 2005 and Thailand is currently in the process of analyzing and writing the CT report and finalizing the situation and gap analysis. The results of the situation and gap analysis, and comprehensibility testing will be used to inform the development of targeted activities for implementing the GHS. In addition, they have translated the GHS Purple Book into Thai as well as standardized signal words and hazard statements in Thai for labelling, which will greatly facilitate national communication.

National Briefing and Training in Singapore

Singapore actively participates in GHS related activities in the ASEAN region.

On 11 April 2005, UNITAR met with 32 representatives of Singaporean governmental and non-governmental bodies for a training meeting on the ASEAN GHS project and discuss involvement of Singapore in regional activities. The training included a presentation about the GHS, the ASEAN project and the methodology for national GHS implementation projects, as well as information on the relationship between UNITAR ASEAN activities and APEC activities, the selection process for pilot countries, and clarification regarding the regional activities and international level coordination. As a result of the meeting, Singapore is actively participating in related project activities in the region.

GHS Seminar in China

The Association of International Chemicals Manufacturers Limited (AICM), Health Canada, UNITAR, and 40 representatives from 10 government departments and 20 from industry held a seminar to discuss GHS implementation in China. Presentations were made by representatives of industry on a comparison of China's chemical regulations that may be effected by the GHS, by the Chair of the UNSCEGHS on what is involved in implementing the GHS, and by UNITAR on the role of capacity building in facilitating GHS implementation, as well as presentations from various stakeholders on their roles in GHS implementation.

Plans for 2006-2007

National GHS Workshop in Pilot Countries

During the first half of 2006, each of the UNITAR/ILO-supported GHS pilot countries will hold a National GHS Workshop involving government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations (see text box on next page). The goal of the workshop is to determine a realistic set of priorities for action through the development of sectoral implementation plans and to facilitate the development of a programmatic framework for GHS implementation in the form of a national GHS implementation strategy.

Mobilization of Resources and Preparation for New Country Pilot Projects

Through contributions to the global UNITAR/ILO trust fund for GHS capacity building, Cambodia and Laos are expected to initiate country-based pilot projects in early 2006, with resources

provided by the Government of Switzerland and European Union.
National GHS Workshop in Malaysia

UNITAR will support and participate in a National GHS Workshop for Malaysian Government Agencies, 9-10 March 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

GHS Activities in Slovenia

In 2006, with the support of UNITAR, Slovenia will convene a number of activities towards GHS implementation, including comprehensibility testing.

**National GHS Workshops in UNITAR/ILO Supported
Pilot Countries**

National GHS workshops provide an opportunity for pilot countries to:

- learn about technical aspects of the GHS, as well as infrastructure which needs to be in place to ensure effective GHS implementation;
- review the situation/gap analysis, as well as results from comprehensibility testing;
- review the roles, responsibilities and necessary activities of business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations in GHS implementation;
- initiate development of required legislative reform for GHS implementation;
- initiate development of sectoral implementation plans, outlining specific activities, responsibilities, timeframes and targets; and
- discuss next steps to develop a National GHS Implementation Strategy, with timeline for GHS Implementation by 2008.

5. Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Capacity Building Guidance and Training Materials – Programme Area 3

Activities in this programme area include the development of GHS information brochures and a GHS capacity building guidance and training package, *e.g.* for implementation strategy development, comprehensibility testing guidance, and training modules on various GHS-related topics (such as classification, labelling and development of SDS).

The initial two indicators for this Programme Area are the following:

- A range of GHS and hazard communication awareness raising materials prepared, peer-reviewed and widely disseminated.
- A range of GHS capacity building guidance and training materials prepared, peer-reviewed and pilot tested.

2005 Activities and Progress Made

Guidance Document for Preparing a National GHS Implementation Strategy

UNITAR/ILO developed an updated version of the guidance document on “Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy” based on the experiences of pilot countries and comments from the PAG.

UNITAR/ILO developed an updated version of the guidance document on “Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy”. This document provides guidance for countries that choose to develop a National GHS Implementation Strategy through a systematic, country-driven process. It was developed with input from previous pilot country experiences, reviewed by the GHS Programme Advisory Group, distributed to partner countries and made available on the UNITAR website.

The document has two parts. Part A provides a background and context for the GHS. It first introduces the concept of chemical hazard communication and provides an overview of key GHS provisions. It then reviews the key sectors affected by GHS implementation (*i.e.* industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products), as well as key actors involved in GHS implementation at the national level (*i.e.* government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations). Part B provides guidance on developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy. Suggestions are provided to assist in conducting a situation and gap analysis, developing sector-specific implementation plans and completing a *National GHS Implementation Strategy* document. Part B also addresses supporting activities such as comprehensibility testing and organization of GHS workshops. The Guidance Document is

available in English and French and serves as a framework for the current pilot project countries for their GHS implementation activities by providing relevant considerations and infrastructures for GHS activities. This document is available on the UNITAR website at: <www.unitar.org/cwm/publications/ghs.htm>.

Comprehensibility Testing (CT) Guidance

Comprehensibility testing and training guidance materials are updated based on pilot testing.

Building upon the experience gained through previous pilot projects to strengthen national capacities to undertake comprehensibility testing, a UNITAR consultant updated and modified the CT methodology and conducted CT training followed by initial field testing in six pilot countries during 2005. This tool will be further modified based on feedback from the testing undertaken in 2006.

Legal Companion Guide

UNITAR is developing a guidance document regarding legal implementation of the GHS. The document will be intended as a handbook for legal specialists and regulators implementing the GHS and to provide a consistent approach for undertaking the development of GHS legislation. Preliminary conceptual discussions were held late in 2005 and a contract with a legal consultant was developed.

Guidance Document for Public Interest and Labour Organisations

Guidance is being developed for public interest and labour organizations on the various activities and roles in GHS implementation.

Starting in late 2005, UNITAR began work with consultants to develop an initial concept and outline for a guidance document on strengthening the role of public interest and labour organisations in GHS strategy development and effective hazard communication. An initial discussion on the outlines of this document was held at the November 2005 Global GHS Workshop in South Africa (see section 6). It is expected that this document will serve to support these stakeholder groups in GHS implementation activities.

Training Modules for GHS Classification and Preparation of Hazard Communication Tools

In response to strong demand from pilot countries and others, and supported by the discussions at the November 2005 Global GHS Workshop, UNITAR has initiated development of training modules for classification of chemicals and preparation of chemical hazard communication tools (labels and SDS). These training modules will target government officials as well as professionals. UNITAR presented an initial concept for the modules at the December 2005 PAG meeting.

Plans for 2006-2007

UNITAR Guidance Materials

During the course of 2005-2006 the document “Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy” is being tested through the pilot countries. It is expected that these pilot projects will result in further refinements of the document. Country feedback will be requested and lessons learned will be incorporated into the first edition which is scheduled for publication in 2006. Draft versions of the legal companion guide and guidance for public interest and labour organizations are also expected to be available in 2006. Outlines of the training modules for GHS classification and preparation of hazard communication tools are under preparation and are expected to be reviewed during 2006.

Other Training and Guidance Materials

The widespread and effective implementation of the GHS will require the development, revision and use of guidance and training materials across a number of GHS-related subjects and building upon the previous years pilot testing activities. In addition to the completion of the activities listed above and subject to availability of resources, UNITAR/ILO, working together with interested Partners, will pursue in 2006 other opportunities for development of awareness raising and guidance materials, for example:

- Sample guidelines for industry regarding key steps and issues related to GHS implementation at the company level.
- Development of an information brochure/booklet for the public to highlight the use of GHS symbols and their meanings in an easily understandable format;
- A “GHS media briefing package”, including a sample press release and other tools that countries would be able to adapt for use in their national situation to publicise the importance of the GHS and proper use and understanding of labels; and
- Information on the experiences of countries in GHS implementation.
- The November 2005 Global GHS Workshop recommended that ICCA should consider preparation of a global report that would summarize the status of GHS implementation in business and industry globally. The report could facilitate information exchange and could also include a listing of existing training initiatives and training materials.

Countries and organizations that are interested in sponsoring such activities are encouraged to contact UNITAR.

6. Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development – Programme Area 4

Activities in this programme area include the provision of supporting services for GHS capacity development which do not easily fall in any of the previous Programme Areas. They include, for example, activities such as a GHS capacity needs assessment survey, or development of a GHS capacity building website.

2005 Activities and Progress Made

Thematic Workshop on GHS Builds Global Capacity for GHS Implementation

The Global GHS Workshop resulted in an exchange of experiences and recommendations to inform the process of GHS capacity building and implementation internationally.

The *Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS* took place from 15-18 November 2005 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The workshop brought together 87 representatives from developing countries, countries with economies in transition, industrialized countries, and international organizations, including government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations. The event was organized by UNITAR in collaboration with the ILO, the Government of South Africa and the University of Cape Town with financial support from the Government of Switzerland and the OPCW. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange experiences with GHS capacity building and implementation, take stock of current activities and needs, and undertake a review of guidance materials and methodology. The conclusions of the workshop will inform the process of building capacity for GHS implementation and the further development of resource, training and guidance materials for capacity building to implement the GHS. Key workshop outcomes are found in the text box on the next page. Further information can be found on the workshop website at <<http://www.unitar.org/cwg/tw/tw9.html>>.

Survey of Asia-Pacific on GHS Implementation Highlights Importance of GHS Capacity Building

The “Development of the GHS in the Asia-Pacific Region Survey” conducted by UNITAR and the Japanese Ministry of Environment was finalized in May 2005. The purpose of the survey was a preliminary assessment of GHS awareness, preparation for implementation, and capacity needs in the region and the results will inform current UNITAR activities in the ASEAN region. The results of the survey serve to inform the status of GHS implementation in the region. The results of the survey highlighted the importance of GHS capacity building in the region. It is available on the UNITAR website.

Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS: Key Outcomes and Recommendations

- The workshop concluded that the GHS is an important element of the sound management of chemicals as it serves to address major differences in chemical hazard classification and communication around the world.
- Workshop participants agreed that GHS implementation and capacity building is of global importance as it is a key requisite for sustainable development, including implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Government, business and industry (including associations) and public interest and labour organizations should initiate the development of action plans and concrete follow-up activities.
- It was suggested that business and industry should develop guidance on how to promote GHS through awareness raising especially for workers and SMEs.
- Participants suggested the development of general guidance to strengthen the role of public interest and labour organizations in GHS capacity building and implementation.
- Participants supported the development of training modules on chemicals classification, preparation of chemical hazard communication tools and effective chemical hazard communication to end-users.
- Public interest and labour organizations can assist in the development of locally appropriate training methods.

GHS Side Event at Stockholm Convention COP-1 Highlights Links Between Stockholm and GHS

The COP side event served to raise awareness on GHS and possible synergies with other chemicals management efforts.

The Government of Uruguay, in collaboration with UNITAR, organized a side-event on the GHS during COP-1 of the Stockholm Convention in Punta del Este, Uruguay on 3 May 2005. The side event, attended by approximately 125 participants, briefed COP-1 delegates about the GHS, shared practical experiences of GHS implementation in countries and among stakeholders, and facilitated a discussion regarding the ways in which the GHS can facilitate implementation of international agreements, such as the Stockholm Convention, and the development of national chemicals management systems. For further information: <www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/cop1sideevent/index.htm>.

Plans for 2006-2007

GHS Side-event at ICCM

UNITAR/ILO will host a side-event on the GHS at the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in Dubai during February 2006. Speakers are expected to include representatives from governments, business and industry and public interest and labour organizations.

Updating the WSSD GHS Partnership Website

The Partnership website will be updated during 2005, including the addition of GHS events, a “frequently asked questions” section, information regarding the status of GHS implementation around the world, and the need for capacity building in countries. See Figure 3 for the draft “GHS implementation” map template.

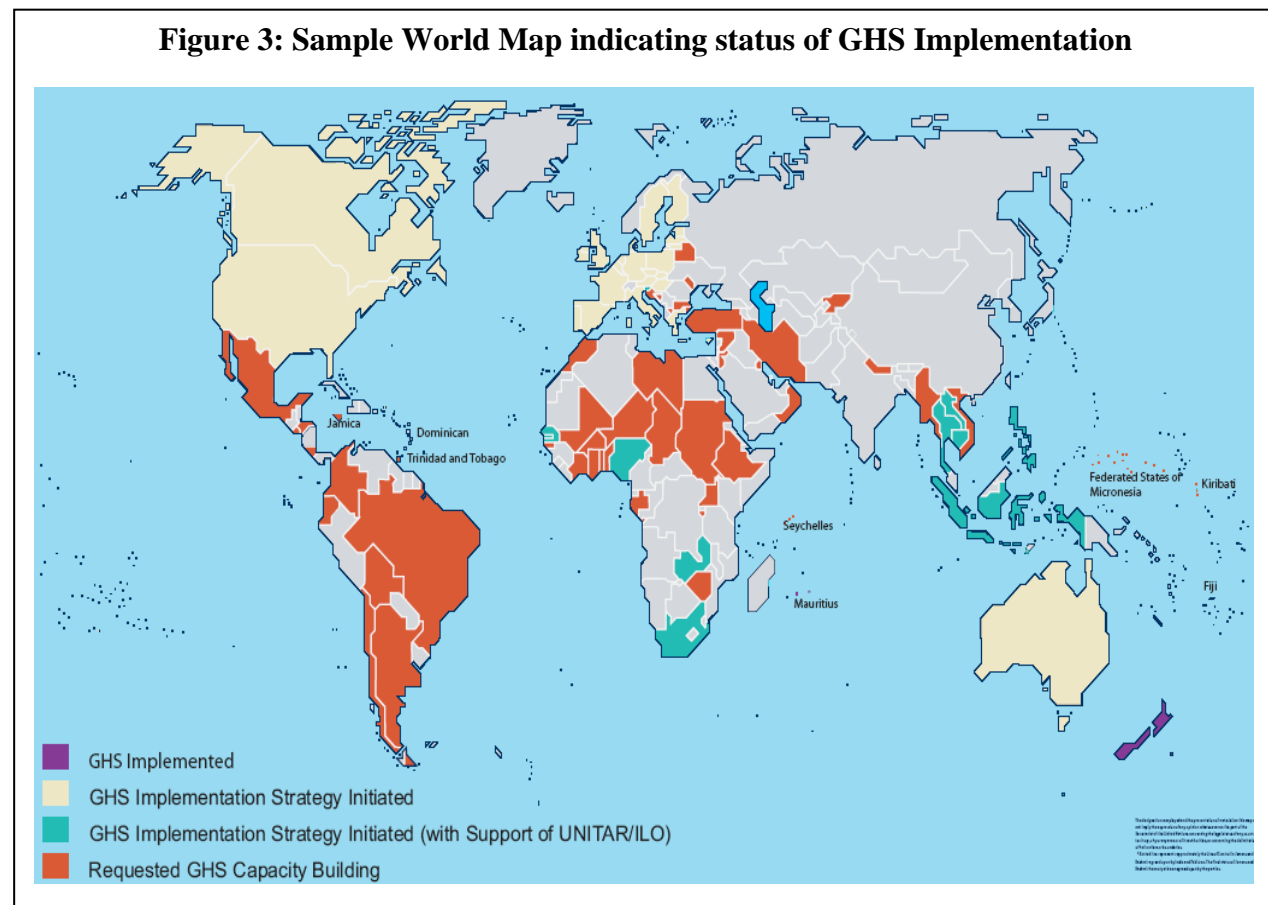
2nd Edition Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Capacity Building Library

UNITAR plans to update the Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Capacity Building to incorporate new information and documents as a key resource for interested countries and stakeholders. This second edition library will be published both as a CD Rom and online.

GHS Roster of Experts to go Online

The Roster of Experts will be further developed by UNITAR into an online resource accessible from the Partnership Website. The Roster was originally developed in 2004 as a list of GHS experts who could provide support on training and capacity building activities for GHS classification, labelling and safety data sheets. Experts listed in the roster are included in their personal capacity and not as the official nomination of any government or organisation. The Roster of Experts will be converted into a database format, searchable by sectors and areas of expertise, language, and region. This searchable database will allow users to quickly identify and contact experts for specific areas of GHS technical guidance and capacity building.

Figure 3: Sample World Map indicating status of GHS Implementation



7. Related Initiatives and Activities in 2005

A number of GHS activities were implemented in 2005 or were in the planning stages which were not directly co-ordinated through the UNITAR/ILO Programme Advisory Group, but nevertheless are important activities contributing to the WSSD goal of GHS implementation by the year 2008.

National Activities

Brazil

During 2005 Brazil concluded four meetings of the GHS Working Group, as well as the second meeting of the Role of Laboratories in the GHS. Additionally, three GHS awareness raising seminars were held, as well as an awareness raising seminar for the Brazilian Agency of Health Surveillance. There was a plenary session and a short training course on the GHS at the Brazilian Congress of Toxicology in October and a workshop on Hazard Communication (GHS) and Chemical Accidents at the World Social Forum in January. Additionally, a first pilot GHS training course was organized by the GT-GHS Brazil, 28 November to 02 December in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil continues to actively participate in the UNSCEGHS and the UNITAR/ILO PAG and a representative of Brazil participated in the *Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS* in November. The Brazilian Chemical Association (Abiquim) translated the OSHA/USA GHS Guidance Document into Portuguese.

Canada

Canada is continuing to consult with stakeholders on how to implement the GHS. The sectors include pest control products, controlled products in the workplace and consumer chemicals. A multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral General Issues Committee serves as a forum for open discussion and advice as to ensure harmonization to the greatest extent possible between the sectors in Canada and harmonization to the greatest extent possible between trading partners. In addition, expert working groups are addressing specific issues of environmental and chronic hazard labelling. Updates on Canadian activity are posted on the website <www.healthcanada.ca/ghs>.

Madagascar

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests made presentations on the GHS during workshops on chemical conventions and the IFCS held in Madagascar. The workshops attracted a wide range of public and private sector participants, included from industry, health, labour

and agriculture. These presentations served as a key awareness-raising tool for the new system.

Mauritius

Mauritius enacted the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act. Within Section 15 of the Act, the fifth schedule deals with classification, the sixth schedule with labelling, the seventh with hazard symbols, the eighth with precautionary statements and the eleventh with hazard communication in safety data sheets. These schedules of the Act have been prepared according to the GHS. Further Technical committees have been set up to advise on classification, labelling and hazard communication of each imported chemical. Present priority is given for the registration of extremely dangerous chemicals and pesticides.

New Zealand

Since the GHS was introduced as the primary framework for the management of hazardous substances through the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act of 1996, GHS has been integrated into the regulatory framework through hazardous property thresholds and classification, and labelling and information requirements. To deal with the lack of product test data and lack of data on components, New Zealand has used a combination of the GHS mixture rules for classification, indirect data and a pragmatic approach to classification. Approximately 2,500 chemicals have been classified for an internal-use database, but non-confidential sections are expected to be made available by the end of 2006. Since 2001, New Zealand has been in a transitional phase for HSNO Act (and thus the GHS) implementation, which will continue until July 2006. Further, implementing the new GHS labelling requirements will take an additional two years and will not be completed before 2008.

Russian Federation

Over 60 representatives from national government, state authorities representing the North-West Russian region, St. Petersburg, as well as other stakeholders and guests from the European Union participated in the workshop on Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in the Russian Federation, 14-15 April 2005, organised by the Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF), the Centre for Transboundary Cooperation of St. Petersburg (CTC) and the International Dangerous Goods and Containers Association (IDGCA). The event was held to provide an overview of the GHS and its requirements, to discuss GHS implementation in the Russian Federation and to identify capacity building needs in industry and state authorities for successful GHS implementation.

Serbia and Montenegro

Serbia and Montenegro undertook a number of activities in connection with GHS capacity building. The Republic of Serbia organised a Workshop on the GHS, with the main objective to learn about the GHS system, to get an overview of the status of the adoption of the GHS by the EU and to facilitate the finalization of the draft framework law on chemicals. The participants discussed the draft Law on Chemical Management of the Republic of Serbia and discussed certain issues that were to be changed or revised. The workshop recommended a needs assessment be developed considering the changes necessary in the existing system for classification and labelling in Serbia but that it may be beneficial to wait for the draft EU proposal for introducing GHS in the EC that is expected in 2006, so that Serbia should model its legislation on GHS based on the EC proposal.

Singapore

For the Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC) in April, an article on the GHS was published in SCIC's 1st Quarter Newsletter which has a circulation of 1000. Subsequent issues of the newsletter also contained updates on GHS developments. On 20 June SCIC held a briefing on GHS developments organised for members, conducted by Mr Ken Price (consultant on UNTDG and GHS matters). On 8 July, a public seminar on the GHS was organised by National Environment Agency, conducted by Mr Richard Gillis (Chairman, SCIC GHS Working Group). In July, a proposal was submitted to Ministry of Trade and Industry, recommending the formation of a National GHS Taskforce to oversee the implementation of GHS in Singapore. In October, the Ministry of Trade and Industry accepted SCIC's proposal to set up the National GHS Taskforce comprising members from the Singapore Government and the Industry (SCIC). The taskforce to be co-chaired by BG (NS) Loh Wai Keong, Deputy Secretary of Trade, and Mr Richard Gillis of SCIC. On 27 October, a presentation on GHS and its impact on business was given by Mr Richard Gillis to participants of the SCIC Conference 2005. On 29 November, the 1st GHS Taskforce Meeting was held, consisting of members from the government agencies and representatives from the industry (SCIC).

United Kingdom

The British based Chemical Hazards Communication Society (CHCS) held a legislation update seminar on 24 February 2005 attended by some 60 chemical hazard communication specialists to consider, *inter-alia*, the move to harmonise the EC's classification, labelling and safety data sheet (SDS) format with the GHS. The presentation was then made available on the CHCS website. The

CHCS also runs, as a service, an email based Questions forum, in English language but open to anyone involved in chemical hazard communication, including on GHS implementation, without requiring CHCS membership (see <www.chcs.org.uk/email-forum.htm>).

United States

In the United States, there are four Federal government agencies engaged in issues related to implementation of the GHS: the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC); the Department of Transportation (DOT); the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). CPSC is developing a situation analysis for its classification and labelling requirements activities in comparison to the GHS. EPA is working with stakeholders to resolve issues regarding application of the GHS to pesticides, and has been engaged with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) trading partners on a coordinated approach to implementation of the GHS to pesticides. DOT is planning to adopt GHS-related changes in 2007. OSHA added consideration of adoption of the GHS to its regulatory agenda in 2005, and continued NAFTA discussions on coordinated implementation of the GHS. In addition, a pilot project was completed with the European Union related to classification of chemicals under the GHS, and preparation of GHS-compliant labels and safety data sheets. The US is also participating in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) related discussions on GHS implementation issues.

Regional Activities

Government of Japan Activities in Asia

The Government of Japan has been actively involved in GHS activities in the ASEAN region. A basic training program was held for Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar in Tokyo in December and a GHS experts training program was held in July and December for representatives of Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam in each of the capital cities respectively. Additionally, in July a training course for chemical management policy was held for participants from ASEAN countries, Brazil and China. Finally, in September a workshop was held on Industry and Environmental Protection for the ASEAN Chemical Industry, which included information on the GHS.

Latin America

The Centro de Informacion Quimica Para Emergencias (CIQUIME), based in Argentina, worked on GHS awareness raising by organizing training courses for hazardous materials emergency response throughout Argentina and Uruguay. CIQUIME plans to present a GHS

training course directed to Health and Safety professionals and several GHS Awareness workshops during 2006.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

In 2005, the GHS was discussed in a number of APEC meetings and activities. At the Chemical Dialogue Steering Group in February, APEC discussed the activities of the UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Programme and the UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD Global GHS Partnership. Further, at the Chemical Dialogue in May the benefits anticipated by APEC from the implementation of the GHS were discussed. At this time, Chinese Taipei and Mexico both presented on GHS in their respective countries. Finally, at the Chemical Dialogue Steering Group meeting in September, Singapore and the Philippines presented status reports on GHS implementation.

International Activities

ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council report E/2005/53 of the Secretary General on the Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals noted the significance of the UNITAR/ILO/OECD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS and its work to build capacities for GHS adoption at all levels.

UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS/UNECE

In 2005, the first revised edition of the GHS “Purple Book” was published. This edition updates the GHS document of 2003.

WHO and ILO

Through the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and the Control Banding International Technical Group (ITG), WHO and ILO continued to coordinate the further development and implementation of the International Chemical Control Toolkit, which incorporates the GHS phrases. Activities in 2005 included: the third International Control Banding Workshop which was convened as part of IOHA2005 in South Africa in September, in parallel with a Control Banding Session in the United States at the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. A pilot CD version of the Toolkit was launched, which provides an interactive version that does not require the internet. Implementation work, including translation of the tool into other languages continued. The toolkit was presented at the Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of ASEAN and distributed at the

Global Thematic Workshop on the GHS.

IPCS

The International Programme of Chemical Safety (IPCS) has a commitment to implementing the GHS to the maximum extent possible through its risk assessment products. This is to promote awareness and understanding of the GHS and to enable the best use of IPCS risk assessment products as a means of assisting national implementation of the GHS by 2008. IPCS is undertaking this work in collaboration with the Participating Organizations of the IOMC, the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS (UNSCEGHS), the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Partnership and the WSSD Global Partnership for implementation of the GHS.

Specific activities in 2005 included finalizing the recommended changes to the guidance and procedures for the preparation of Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs), International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs, in collaboration with ILO) and the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard; and development of a proposal for an ongoing working relationship under the auspices of the UN SCEGHS for involvement of global health partners in implementation of the GHS.

Other Related Activities

CEFIC

The Chemical Industry Council of Europe (CEFIC) was involved in a number of GHS events in 2005. CEFIC participated 13-15 April, in St Petersburg, Russia, in a GHS Workshop for Russian Authorities. From 31 February - 3 March they coordinated a GHS Workshop in Malaysia during the ChemCon 2005, and provided a GHS presentation at the conference. Further, on 21 September, CEFIC attended a GHS Awareness raising event at the Global Health and Safety Congress, Orlando, Florida, USA. Finally, CEFIC members participated in a GHS Workshop in Belgrade Serbia for Serbian Authorities, 24-25 November. There were also a number of activities undertaken by European Union Member States and Industry.

8. Further Development of the Partnership in 2006

Significant progress has been made since the initiation of the Partnership in 2002 towards meeting the goal of global GHS implementation by the 2008 target. Twelve countries have been or are receiving support through the UNITAR/ILO *GHS Global Capacity Building Programme* and three regional workshops have been held for GHS capacity building and implementation. The preceding pages of this report highlight many other activities, guidance, and training materials that also contribute to building capacities in order to assist developing and transition countries to meet the goal of GHS implementation by 2008.

However, there are still many challenges to be addressed and areas where GHS capacity building will be essential for meeting the 2008 goal. Some of these challenges include:

- There remain at least 62 countries that have requested support for GHS capacity building but have not participated in the UNITAR/ILO programme to date.
- A significant number of regions have not held a GHS workshop and continue to request support in order to benefit from this training.
- The challenges faced by SMEs to implement the GHS has been highlighted by many partners and methodologies to overcome this challenge need to be developed and implemented.
- There remain significant possibilities to further engage global industry in the process of GHS capacity building and implementation. UNITAR would be interested to explore with partners how innovative partnership projects or twinning activities might be developed to achieve this.
- Countries are indicating strong interest to develop synergies between the GHS and other chemical management initiatives, most notably the Stockholm Convention. UNITAR has initiated exploratory discussions regarding, for example, how GHS capacity building and implementation activities might be undertaken in the context of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans.

The GHS Partners may wish to consider how best to meet these and other remaining challenges in order to realise the benefits of a truly globally implemented, globally harmonised system of classification and labelling of chemicals during 2006 and 2007. The second Meeting of the Partners (see text box on page 6) in late 2006 will provide an important opportunity to take stock of progress to date and determine the best ways forward to fully realise the objectives of the GHS Partnership.

Annex 1: A Summary of the GHS

The UN Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is an important new tool that countries can draw upon to develop national chemical hazard communication systems by providing a basis for the establishment of comprehensive chemical safety programs. It represents an important step in harmonizing national chemical hazard communication systems worldwide and has a great potential to improve chemical safety across all relevant sectors.

The GHS is a consistent and coherent approach to identifying the hazards of chemicals, and providing information on these hazards and associated protective measures to users or those who may be exposed. The system is structured so that appropriate elements for classification and communication, which consider the target population, can be selected. Those who then use chemicals can take the proper steps to protect themselves and the environment.

Target populations include employers, workers, including those involved in transport, consumers, and emergency responders. Others who provide services to these people will also find the information useful (e.g., doctors, nurses, safety engineers and occupational hygienists). The GHS includes harmonized criteria for the definition of physical hazards (such as flammability), health hazards (such as carcinogenicity) and environmental hazards. These internationally-developed criteria are used to evaluate the hazards of both substances and mixtures.

The GHS covers all hazardous chemical substances, dilute solutions and mixtures and addresses how labels and safety data sheets should be used to convey information about their hazards, and how to protect people from these effects. It also provides a basis for safety training and health promotion.

The System is expected to:

- enhance the protection of people and the environment by providing an internationally comprehensive system for chemical hazard communication;
- provide a recognised framework for those countries without an existing system;
- reduce the need for duplicative testing and evaluation of chemicals; and
- facilitate international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed and identified on an international basis.

More information about the GHS can be obtained from the Secretariat (UNECE) of the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS at:

www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs.html.

Annex 2: History of the WSSD GHS Partnership

Initiation of the WSSD GHS Partnership by UNITAR, ILO and OECD

In April 2002, UNITAR and ILO, in collaboration with OECD, initiated the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*.⁵ The main goal of the WSSD GHS Partnership is to mobilize resources and implement a number of specific support activities to strengthen capacities at all levels and sectors – in particular in developing and transition countries – towards implementing the GHS for industrial chemicals, agricultural chemicals, chemicals in transport and consumer chemicals. In response to a call for Partners prior to the WSSD, over 25 governments, international organizations and NGOs responded with an interest to participate in the Partnership.

Partnership Announcement at the Johannesburg Summit

In July 2002, the Partnership proposal was submitted to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and placed on the WSSD website following a review by DESA that it met the guiding principles developed by the WSSD Preparatory Committee in preparation for the Summit.⁶ At the Summit the Partnership was formally launched as part of the official WSSD Programme on Friday, 30 August 2002. UNITAR's Executive Director Dr. Marcel Boisard convened a partnership panel including: James Phiri, *Executive Director, Environmental Council of Zambia*, Conchita Poncini, *International Confederation of University Women and President, NGO Committee on the Status of Women*, Larry Kohler, *Specialist, Sustainable Development, ILO*, Kenneth Ruffing, *Acting Director, Environment Directorate, OECD* and Ambassador Beat Nobs, *Head of Division, International Affairs Division, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (BUWAL)*.

The WSSD Plan of Implementation and the GHS

Chemical safety, including hazard communication and GHS implementation, is one of the issues that received specific attention at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). In paragraph 23 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation, governments renewed their commitment to the sound management of chemicals across a variety of important sectors. The need for support for developing countries to strengthen their capacities for the sound management of chemicals, through the provision of technical and financial assistance, was highlighted. More specifically, it was agreed to “encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008”.⁷ This target had also been adopted by the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in 2000.

⁵ Further information on relevant international bodies related to the GHS can be found in Annex 3.

⁶ The list and details of selected Partnerships, including the Global GHS Partnership, can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>.

⁷ A/CONF.199/20, paragraph 23(c).

First Meeting of Partners, July 2003

The First Meeting of Partners was held in July 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives from 16 governments, 8 intergovernmental organizations and 12 NGOs discussed and agreed a number of important elements, including:

- the framework workplan and four Partnership programme areas;
- that Meetings of Partners would take place about every two years, if possible prior to submission of bi-annual progress reports for the Partnership to the CSD Secretariat;
- that the UNITAR/ILO Programme Advisory Group (PAG) will continue to provide technical and coordinating support for Partnership Activities;
- that UNITAR will provide the Secretariat for the Partnership (dependent on mobilization of adequate resources), working closely with ILO and OECD;
- highlighting the importance of ensuring sustainable core funding both to support Partnership activities and to provide the functions of the Partnership Secretariat; and
- linking GHS capacity development needs and implementation activities with other international priorities for sustainable development (such as poverty eradication, protection of water supplies and protection of marginalised groups such as women and children).

A full report of the meeting is available from UNITAR.

Annex 3: International Bodies and Initiatives Relevant to GHS Capacity Building: A Brief Overview

UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS

The UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS (UN SCEGHS) is a policy body which maintains existing and develops new technical elements of the GHS, as appropriate, and makes proposals for work and policy decisions to its parent committee, the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods & the GHS. Proposals include the provision of technical guidance to countries and organizations with regard to the further development of the GHS and its implementation. The UN SCEGHS also issues recommendations in the area of GHS capacity building, but does not have an executing function. UNITAR/ILO have been designated as a focal point for this purpose.

The UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme

The UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme operates within UNITAR's Training and Capacity Building Programmes in Chemicals and Waste Management. It has an executing function and supports national GHS implementation strategy development processes, regional workshops, and develops and pilots GHS training material. The Programme receives technical advice from a Programme Advisory Group (PAG) which includes representatives from several countries and organizations involved in GHS development and implementation. UNITAR/ILO provide regular updates of Programme activities to the UN SCEGHS.

The Global WSSD GHS Partnership

The Global GHS Partnership is a WSSD-endorsed framework which brings together countries and organizations committed to supporting specific GHS capacity building activities in developing and transition countries. It was initiated by UNITAR and ILO, in collaboration with the OECD. The Partnership pursues concrete objectives and targets for GHS capacity building activities at the global, regional and national levels and Partners work together to mobilize resources to reach these targets. Technical aspects of Partnership activities are reviewed by the PAG of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme. However, not all core Partnership activities are necessarily executed by UNITAR/ILO. Countries and organizations may execute core Partnership activities independently, as long as the activity contributes to one of the Partnership targets and is coordinated through the PAG. The secretariat function for the Partnership is provided by UNITAR, working together with ILO and OECD.

Annex 4: List of Acronyms

APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BUWAL	Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
CEFIC	European Chemical Industry Council
COPASQ	Commission for Chemical Safety (Brazil)
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN)
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
GHS	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
NGO	non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSHA	US Occupational Safety and Health Administration
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCEGHS	Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS
SCHC	Society for Chemical Hazard Communication
SDS	safety data sheets
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development



The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and other non-governmental sources.



The International Labour Organization is the UN specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. It was founded in 1919 and is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles which brought the League of Nations into being and it became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The ILO formulates international labour standards, provides technical assistance and promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organizations and provides training and advisory services to those organizations. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.



The OECD is a unique forum where governments can pool ideas and expertise to tackle the economic, social and governance challenges of the 21st century globalised economy. It groups 30 market democracies producing 60% of the world's goods and services, but in this era of globalization the OECD does not and cannot work alone. It shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 70 countries worldwide, as well as a vast array of stakeholders and interest groups, on topics of mutual concern from measuring climate change to ensuring transparency and accountability of governments to their citizens.